## Faculty

**Pieter Broucke** is a professor of the history of art and architecture and currently serves as director of the Arts. He is also the associatè curator of ancient art at the Middlebury College Museum of Art. Trained as an architect in his native Belgium, he received his Ph.D. from Yale University. He is the author of *The Archaeology of Architecture: Charles Robert Cockerell in Southern Europe and the Levant, 1810–1817* (Yale Center for British Art, 1993) and numerous articles and abstracts. He recently co-edited *Nature Transformed: Edward Burtynsky's Vermont Quarry Photographs in Context* (University Press of New England, 2012). Currently he is working on his third book, entitled *The Five Pantheons: a Design Taxomony of Rome's Most Enigmatic Building.*

**Matthew Dickinson** is a professor of political science, specializing in the presidency, presidential elections, and American national government. Prior to coming to Middlebury he taught for many years at Harvard University, where he also received his Ph.D. He is the author of *Bitter Harvest: FDR, Presidential Power, and the Growth of the Presidential Branch,* the co-editor of *Richard Neustadt: Guardian of the Presidency*, and has published numerous articles on the Presidency, Congress, presidential decision-making, and presidential advisers. He also posts daily on his blog, http://blogs.middlebury.edu/presidentialpower, which focuses on presidential politics.

**John Elder** taught English and American literatures and environmental studies at Middlebury College from 1973 until his retirement in 2010. Among the topics on which his classes focused were American nature writing, English Romantic poetry, Basho and Japan's haiku tradition, and contemporary poetry of earth. His books often combine discussions of literature, landscape history and description, and memoir. *Reading the Mountains of Home* connects all these elements within a continuous reading of Frost's poem "Directive." John and his wife, Rita, live in Bristol and operate a sugarbush with the families of their sons in the hills of Starksboro.

**Barbara Hofer** is professor and chair of the Department of Psychology. She received a master of education from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and was recently named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She has a National Science Foundation grant to examine the development of adolescent beliefs about knowledge and knowing, and conducts research on the psychological aspects of communication between college students and their parents in an age of rapid technological changes. She is the author of two books: *The iConnected Parent: Staying Close to Your Kids in College (and Beyond) While Letting Them Grow Up* (Free Press, 2010) and *Personal Epistemology: The Psychology of Beliefs about Knowledge and Knowing* (Erlbaum, 2002).

**Patricia Manley** is a professor of geology; she teaches courses in introductory geology, marine geology, geophysics, and sedimentary geology. She received her doctorate at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. In 2004 she received the American Women Geosciences Outstanding Educator Award and in 2005 was inducted into the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering. Her research has been is focused on Holocene paleoclimate change as recorded in marine and lake sediments. She has been on numerous research cruises to the North Atlantic and Antarctica and on Lake Champlain.

**Thomas Manley** is a visiting assistant professor of geology. He teaches courses in oceanography, coastal processes, and three-dimensional visualization of data. He received his doctorate from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. He has studied the polar oceans and has been on numerous ice-based camps in the Arctic. He was the U.S. representative for quality control of the Russian-U.S. oceanographic data base for the Arctic Ocean and Marginal Seas and was the occupant of the Commander Naval Oceanography Command Sponsored Chair at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He has studied the hydrodynamics of Lake Champlain utilizing taut-line moorings and lagrangian drifters. He was the executive director of the Lake Champlain Research Consortium and is the captain of Middlebury College's research vessel.

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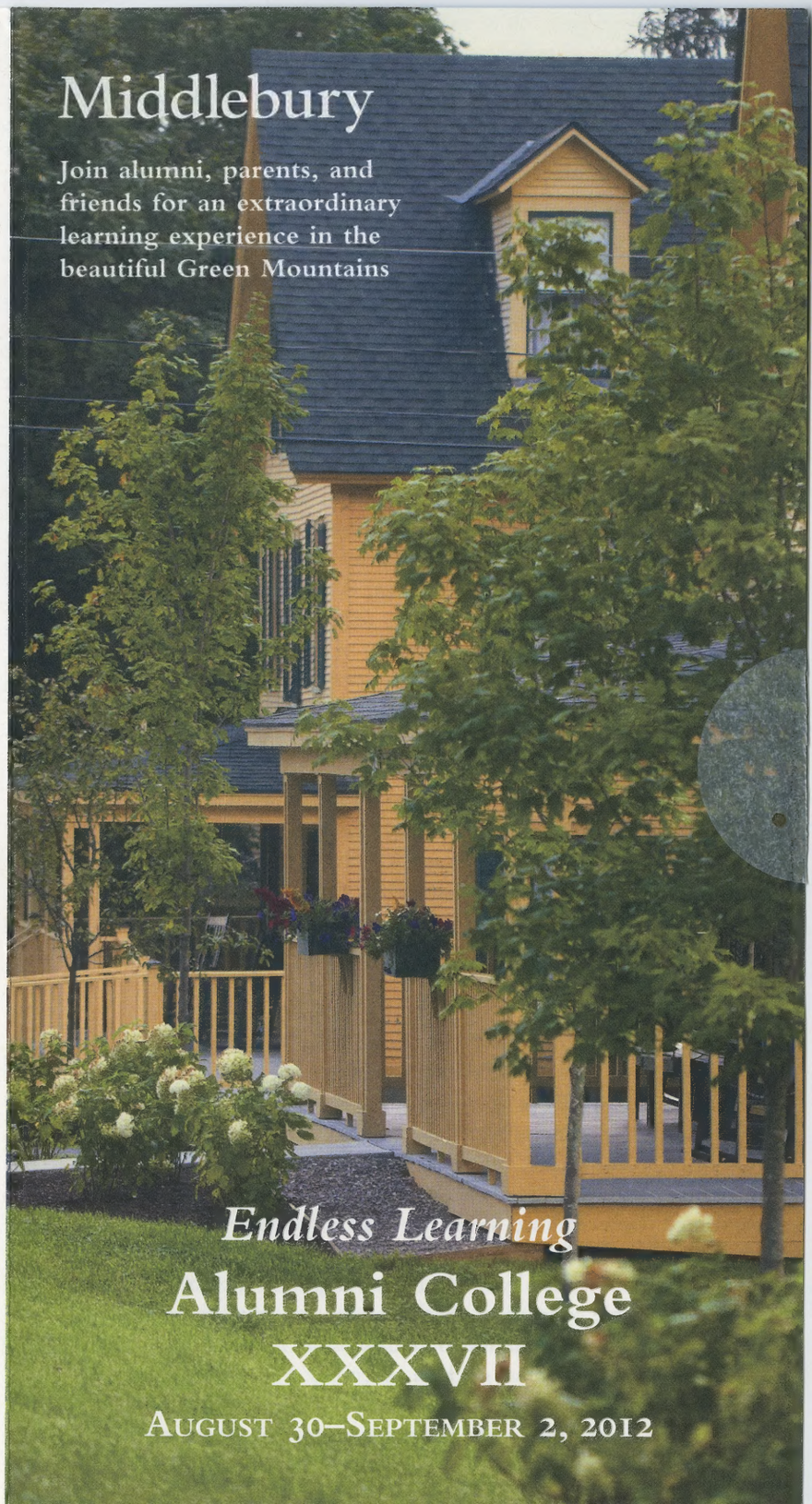
Alumni and Parent Programs
Alumni College XXXVII
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Photos by Ed Brown

## Alumni College at Bread Loaf

This year's Alumni College brings together some of Middlebury's finest professors to share their knowledge and excitement about five fascinating topics. You might have a hard time deciding which course to take, so it's reassuring to know that you can't go wrong: they're all going to be great!

- Examine the issues and the strategies in the current presidential campaign.
- Explore Lake Champlain with two senior geologists aboard our new research vessel, *R/V Folger.*
- Study the poems of Robert Frost while visiting some of the places that inspired them.
- Learn how technology is changing our communications, our relationships, and even our brains.
- Investigate the Pantheon in Rome and discover the surprising story of one of the ancient world's greatest buildings.



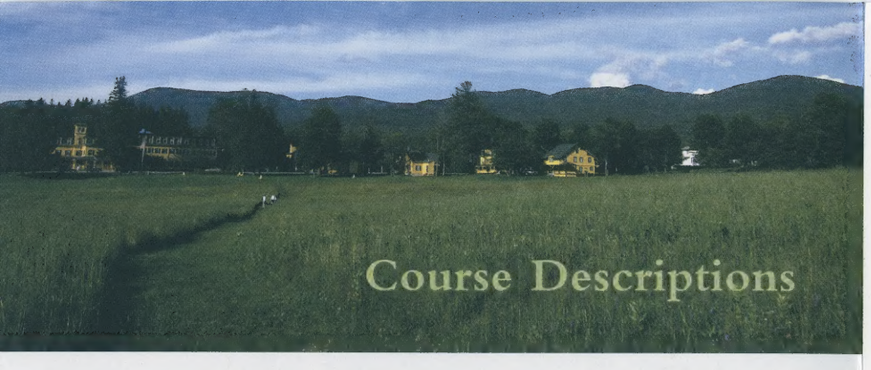
# Middlebury

Join alumni, parents, and friends for an extraordinary learning experience in the beautiful Green Mountains

*Endless Learning*

# Alumni College XXXVII

August 30–September 2, 2012



# Course Descriptions

## 1. The Pantheon in Rome from Augustus to Jefferson: Design, Meaning, and Legacy

*Pieter Broucke, Director of the Arts, Professor of the History of Art and Architecture*

Its pivotal importance notwithstanding, the Pantheon remains a poorly understood structure, both as a cultural manifestation and as an architectural composition. Over the last two centuries alone, the Pantheon has been dated to the Roman Republic, the Age of Augustus (during the early Roman Empire), the reign of Trajan (when Rome was at its greatest expanse), and the time of Hadrian (from 117 to 138 C.E.). Likewise, the structure has been identified as a temple to all the gods, as a shrine celebrating the notion of dynasty, as the personal manifestation of an emperor's vision of the universe, and, more prosaically, as part of a bath complex.

In this course we will explore the Pantheon from a number of perspectives, discerning various phases of design, construction, and restoration of the building itself and looking at primary sources and some recently compiled evidence for the date of its construction. The result is an intriguing saga involving imperial ambition, daring structural innovation, disastrous constructional setbacks, radical changes in plan, and even murder.

## 2. Understanding the 2012 Presidential Election

*Matt Dickinson, Professor of Political Science*

We are in the middle of one of the most significant presidential elections in recent memory, the outcome of which may determine the fate of "Obamacare," climate change legislation, and the nation's political direction. Not surprisingly, the election has generated unprecedented media coverage and intense debate by the "punditocracy." Unfortunately, much of this coverage and analysis is characterized by misleading assumptions, incomplete data, and questionable conclusions. In this course, we draw on political science research to reexamine some basic issues related to the 2012 election. What determines election outcomes? How much do voters know? Is the media biased? Is the selection process in need of reform? The goal is to substitute more dispassionate analysis for the often partisan-driven commentary that dominates media coverage.

## 3. Robert Frost and the Forests of Vermont

*John Elder, Professor Emeritus of English and American Literatures and Environmental Studies*

In addition to his extraordinarily musical verse and his intriguing combination of apparent simplicity with deep reserve, Frost's poetry was characterized by its remarkable perceptiveness about ecological patterns. He was a dedicated amateur botanist, a student of Darwin, and a careful observer of the woods and wildlife of northern New England in all seasons. While reading widely in Frost's work, we will pay special attention to his perceptiveness as a naturalist and the ways in which such scientific acuteness illuminates other themes in his poems. We will also take several outings into the landscape surrounding Bread Loaf to relate particular poems more concretely to the settings that inspired them.

## 4. Psychology and Emerging Technology

*Barbara Hofer, Professor of Psychology*

New media and technology, such as smart phones and social media, are changing how we think, relate, connect, learn, and work. In this course we will examine what recent psychological literature tells us about the pros and cons of our wired world and our evolving relationship to technology. In this discussion-based course, we will review research on the use of cell phones, social media, and the Internet and look at such topics as attention and multi-tasking, addiction, brain and mind, relationships with friends and family (and oneself) in a time of digital frenzy. We will draw on neuroscience and multiple areas of psychology, including social, developmental, cognitive, and educational, and we will work toward understanding research in a new field—as well as a better understanding of our own experiences with rapid technological change.

## 5. Past, Present and Future of Lake Champlain: The Views of Oceanographers

*Patricia Manley, Professor of Geology, and Thomas Manley, Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology*

Nestled between the Green Mountains to the east and the Adirondacks Mountains to the west within the Champlain Basin lies the sixth great lake, Lake Champlain. Formed in three distinct phases since the last deglaciation, Lake Champlain is the sediment repository of these time periods. Historically it has been a waterway for native peoples, important in American historical marine battles, a key transportation pathway for commodities in the 1800s, and now it is an important recreational lake. Presently the lake is undergoing dramatic changes due to human impacts, invasive species, and global warming. This course will explore the lake's geologic formation, its cultural history, and present-day water movement in hopes of gaining knowledge to address the issues the lake will face in the future. We will also be utilizing Middlebury College's new research vessel, *R/V Folger,* for this course.

# REGISTRATION FORM

**Alumni College XXXVII / August 30–September 2, 2012**

Name: _____

Class: _____ Number of Alumni Colleges you have attended: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

My first choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____

Special housing needs? _____

**Fees** (includes tuition, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf)
$525 per person (with lodging)
$425 per person (without lodging)
$ 45 per person (additional lodging Wednesday, August 29), includes breakfast

Books and articles must be obtained separately. Information regarding course materials will be provided after registration. Although Bread Loaf has wireless Internet service, there is limited cell phone coverage at this time.

**Method of payment**

❒ Check payable to "Middlebury College" enclosed
❒ Visa ❒ MasterCard Total: $_____
❒ Online at: http://go.middlebury.edu/alumnicollege

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CSV# _____
3-digit code on back

Cardholder's name: _____

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Street address_____ Zip: _____

**Please send form with payment to:**
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
McKinley House
5340 Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

For more information, please contact Glenna Emilo in the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at 802.443.5335 or emilo@middlebury.edu.